

October 22, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant unveiled the logo for the 2025 FIDE World Cup Chess Tournament, which will begin on Oct. 31.
 - i. The World Cup Chess Tournament organized by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) will be held from Oct. 31 to Nov. 27. The tournament is being held in India again after almost 23 years.
 - ii. 206 players from 82 countries are participating in this.
 - iii. The Indian team includes world champion Kulkesh Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erikaisi, Nihal Sareen, Vidit Gujarati in the men's category and World Cup champion Divya Deshmukh in the women's category. Faustino Oro, a 12-year-old boy from Argentina, is participating in the competition.
2. The US President Donald Trump has again warned that India will have to pay additional tariffs if it continues to buy crude oil from Russia.
 - i. Earlier, President Trump had already said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured him that India would stop importing Russian oil, and if India continued buying oil from Russia, an additional 50 percent tax would be imposed on Indian goods. However, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs denied this, explaining that their aim was to "increase the country's energy resources, taking into account market conditions."
 - ii. The United States has criticized India for continuing to trade oil with Russia and providing financial support to Russia in the war against Ukraine. In response, tariffs on some Indian goods imported into the United States were increased to 50 percent.
 - iii. The US President Trump has threatened to impose an additional 100 percent tariff on China if it does not agree to a trade deal, as China tightens its rules on rare earth minerals. President Trump has already imposed an additional 30 percent tariff on China, bringing the total tariff rate on Chinese goods to around 55 to 57 percent.
3. Dutchman and Red Bull driver Max Verstappen won the United States Grand Prix, the 19th race of the current Formula One season.
 - i. He finished first in the race, with British driver and McLaren driver Lando Norris in second place, and Monaco driver and Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc in third place.
4. Sane Takaichi (64), the country's former Minister of Economy and Defense, has created new history by becoming Japan's first female Prime Minister.
 - i. In a vote held in the National Assembly regarding this, 237 votes were recorded in favor of him and 149 votes were recorded against him. Sane Takaichi was announced as the Country's new Prime Minister, receiving just four more votes than the 233 votes needed for a majority.
 - ii. Sane Takaichi, who has pledged to increase the representation of women in his cabinet, has appointed Satsuki Kadayama as the country's first female Finance Minister and Kimi Onada as Economic Security Minister.

- iii. Furthermore, Takaichi has promised to give her 19-member cabinet five more women, similar to Iceland, Finland, and Norway.
5. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the country's defense sector production value has tripled in the last 11 years and has crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore.
 - i. He made this statement while participating in a Diwali celebration with naval personnel aboard the indigenously built aircraft carrier 'INS Vikrant'.
 - ii. INS Vikrant, the largest aircraft carrier built at the Kochi shipyard, was commissioned into the Navy in 2022. It is the first indigenously built aircraft carrier.
 - iii. The Prime Minister Modi participated in Diwali celebrations on board the ship in the Goa-Karwar (Karnataka) sea area.
 - iv. He stayed on the ship overnight and participated in a yoga session the next morning. He also watched the majestic parade of warships. INS Vikramaditya (aircraft carrier), INS Surat, INS Marmagova, INS Chennai, INS Imphal, INS Kolkata, INS Dushil, INS Tahir, INS Tej, INS Petva, INS Deepak, and INS Aditya — these warships participated in the fleet review. The Chetak, MH 60R, Seeking, and Kamov 31 helicopters were also flown.
6. The U.S. Government has issued new guidance clarifying that the \$100,000 fee imposed by the Trump administration on H-1B visa holders (about ₹8.8 lakh) does not apply to those changing their visa status or extending their visa. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has stated the following in this regard:
 - i. Foreigners already residing in the United States will not be charged a \$100,000 fee to change their visa type. This means that a foreigner holding a student visa will not be charged a new fee if they switch to an 'H1B' visa.
 - ii. Similarly, if they apply to extend their current H1B visa period, they will also not be charged this \$100,000 fee. It has been informed that this new fee will not apply to valid H1B visas issued before September 21 or applications submitted before that date.
 - iii. Companies in the United States use the H1B visa system to recruit skilled workers from various countries around the world to their companies. As such, a large number of Indian professionals are working in American companies.
 - iv. The President Donald Trump announced on September 19 that the new fee for 'H1B' visas would be set at \$100,000 and the new guidelines has brought great relief to foreigners, including Indians, who are planning to complete their higher education in the United States and seek employment there.
7. The Andhra Pradesh Information Technology Minister Nara Lokesh said that Australia has lifted the ban on the export of unskinned shrimp from India.
 - i. Australia banned the import of Indian shrimp a few years ago after a virus was found in its shrimp.
 - ii. However, as the country exports a large amount of shrimp to the US, Australia's ban did not affect it. The recent tariffs imposed by US President Trump severely affected shrimp exports in Andhra Pradesh. The US export deal has been cancelled

by 50 percent.

- iii. Andhra Pradesh still contributes 80 percent of the country's shrimp exports, worth Rs 21,246 crore annually.

- 8. India's Syndrela Das and Divyanshi Bhowmick set a new record by becoming the world's No. 1 in the Under-19 women's doubles table tennis tournament.
- 9. The former French President Nicolas Sarkozy has begun his five-year prison sentence after being convicted of using funds he received from Libya for his election campaign.
- 10. The Mettur Dam reached its full capacity for the 7th time this year. With the inflow of water into the dam at 35,500 cubic feet per second, 22,300 cubic feet of water is being released through the overflow spillways after 40 days.
 - i. Due to continuous rains in the Cauvery catchment areas of Karnataka and the catchment areas of Cauvery's tributaries Palaru, Chinnar, and Thoppaiyar, the water inflow into the Mettur Dam increased to 30,500 cubic feet.
 - ii. The dam subsequently reached its full capacity of 120 feet for the 7th time this year.

